

Proclamation

In Memoriam

WHEREAS, Rodney Kealiimahiai Burgess III graduated from the Kamehameha School for Boys in 1960, was appointed to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and attended the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; and

WHEREAS, Rodney Kealiimahiai Burgess III was a successful Native Hawaiian businessman and entrepreneur who ran numerous businesses including RB Insurance Services, Inc., The Furniture Company Ltd., Interior Construction of Hawai'i Inc., RB Financial Services, Inc., Native Hawaiian Ocean Activities, and Rod Burgess Realty; and

WHEREAS, Rodney Kealiimahiai Burgess III led the restoration and re-launching of the traditional double-hulled sailing canoe, *Eala*; and

WHEREAS, Rodney Kealiimahiai Burgess III served as the Vice President of the Hawai'i Consumer Finance Association, was a co-founder and charter member of the North Shore Jaycees, a charter member and director of the Hawaiian Businessmen's Association, a member of the Queen Emma and Waialua Hawaiian Civic Clubs, a founding member of the Kailua-Kona Chapter of the Royal Order of Kamehameha I, and President of 'Onipa'a Na Kupuna o Waimānalo; and

WHEREAS, Rodney Kealiimahiai Burgess III was elected to the first Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and served as a Trustee from 1980 to 1990, during which time he served as the Chairman of the Land and Natural Resources Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Chairman of Planning and Development, and Founder and Co-chair of OHA's Status and Entitlement Commission; and


WHEREAS, Rodney Kealiimahiai Burgess III led efforts at OHA to defend *kuleana* lands from quiet title actions, intervene in the unearthing of Hawaiian burials at Kapalua, and lobbied the State Legislature to provide long-term leases to residents of Maunaloa Valley on O'ahu and Miloli'i-Ho'opuloa on Hawai'i island; and

WHEREAS, Rodney Kealiimahiai Burgess III vigorously pursued ceded lands claims and participated in negotiations resulting in increased revenues and retroactive payments to OHA, and was a strong advocate for Hawaiian self-governance, Hawaiian language schools, and Hawaiian cultural centers; and

WHEREAS, Rodney Kealiimahiai Burgess III was preceded in death by his brother, Roy Burgess; son, Brad Burgess; and grand-daughter, Cherish Cabral;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawai'i, express our deepest sympathies to Rodney's mother, Margaret Burgess; brothers, Reynard (Yolanda) Burgess and Randall (Debbie) Burgess; sons, Chad (Val) Burgess, Eric Burgess, Kawika (Kau) Burgess, and Kona Burgess; daughters, Danielle (Fernando) Cunha, Crystal Hualalai Cabral, and Eala Burgess; and grandchildren, Kahikina Burgess, Sanoe Burgess, Kuaihelani Burgess, Gabriela Cunha, Kaholokai Cunha, Hulali Cabral and Ecko Cabral; and urge the people of Hawai'i to remember Rodney's contributions to Native Hawaiians and the island community.

DONE at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this third day of April 2014.


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i


SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i